REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-2 and 5-6 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

In the FINAL Office Action mailed February 26, 2009, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by JP 2000-285782 (**Kazunari et al.**).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

As noted in Applicant's previous response, **Kazunari et al.** discloses an electromagnetic relay. A movable contact piece 21 and a fixed contact piece 25 are press fitted into the press fitting grooves of an electromagnetic block 10 from the side to form a contact mechanism part, and a regulating spring 30 is pressed thereto from the side and vertically arranged in an insulating space 14. A card 40 is slidably fitted to the upper ends of first, second and third insulating walls of the electromagnetic block 10. A coil is excited by the application of a voltage so as to generate a magnetic flux canceling the magnetic flux of a permanent magnet 52. According to this a movable block 50 is rotated against the magnetic force of the permanent magnet 52, and the lower end of a movable iron piece 51 is attracted to a yoke. Therefore, the card 40 slides horizontally against the spring force of the regulating spring 30. Consequently, a movable contact 22 touches and separates from a fixed contact 26.

In a previous Office Action the Examiner urged that the top part of movable contact piece (spring) 21 has a U-shaped hook.

Applicant disagreed, noting that FIG. 4 shows spring 21 having a trapezoidal-shaped "upper bed edge (21a)" and a traveling contact 22 having a dome-shape, as shown in FIG. 6(b). No portion of spring 21 is shaped like a U-shaped hook, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

The Examiner now urges that "element 21a or the top of element 21 is a U-shape starting from the right side then going to the top then to the left side."

As noted previously, this is not a U-shape but instead a trapezoidal shape. "U-shaped" means bent in the shape of a U and, furthermore, claim 1 further recites a "U-shaped hook," where "hook" is defined in Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, 1991 as a "curved or bent piece of metal," as shown in FIGS. 4a and 4b of the instant application for item 400. Upper bed edge (21a) of spring 21 in **Kazunari et al.** is not a "U-shaped hook" as recited in claim 1.

In order to distinguish the "U-shaped hook" from the trapezoidal-shaped upper bent edge (21a) of **Kazunari et al.**, claims 1-2 and 5-6 has been amended to recite that the "U-shaped hook" is formed by bending one longitudinal end of the movable spring towards the other longitudinal end, which is not disclosed in **Kazunari et al.**

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 5-6, as amended, are now in condition for further examination.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Dated: June 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

CUSTOMER NO.: 21874

By _____

William L. Brooks
Registration No.: 34,129
EDWARDS ANGELL PALMER & DODGE LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
(202) 478-7376
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant